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Indian Rights Association,
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RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDIAN MANAGEMENT.

There is now pending in Congress a measure (S. 4164), known as the Robinson bill, which proposes to separate the management of Indian affairs from the Interior Department by creating a commission with full power to act.

For years those who have made a close study of the question have been impressed with the utter helplessness of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs beyond a given point. In many important matters he can only make recommendations which must first be approved by the Secretary of the Interior before they are effective. It has not infrequently happened that the Commissioner has been at the mercy of a petty clerk in the Secretary's office, who leisurely examined the papers to see if every "i" was dotted and every "t" was crossed, or who endeavored to raise hair-splitting technical objections to the recommendation under consideration. In this manner action has been delayed weeks and months. What great corporation would think of putting a high grade man at the head of a large and important plant and expect satisfactory results if his hands were thus tied?

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs controls the destiny of a race of over 300,000 people; and he has the management of an estate—including funds and properties—estimated to be worth nine hundred millions of dollars. If a man is considered big enough to be placed in charge of such a task, he should be given full control of the affairs he has to administer and held responsible for his acts. Otherwise, no matter how big the man, he can accomplish but little in the way of permanent results.

One day would be too long to keep an incompetent or

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unworthy man at the head of the Indian Bureau, but when the right man is placed in charge of it he should be given every opportunity for efficient management, with full power to administer Indian affairs, and the knowledge that the responsibility is his.

The purpose of Senator Robinson's bill ("to make more efficient Indian administration") is one that has for years been advocated by those friends of the Indian who have given the subject thoughtful consideration. We urge our members and friends to write to their representatives in Congress (both the Senate and the House), requesting the passage of some such measure. The press can greatly help by calling attention to the need for this legislation.

CARL E. GRAMMER,
President I. R. A.